

## Condor hatches at Oregon Zoo

PORTLAND (AP) — The first California condor chick born in Oregon in more than a century couldn't have picked a better day to come into the world — Mother's Day.

The chick started to hatch Thursday at the Oregon Zoo's new Condor Creek Conservation Facility in rural Clackamas County. It was finally out on Sunday, more than eight weeks after it was laid.

"I'm very relieved the chick has survived hatching," said Joe Burnett, the zoo's assistant curator for condors. "Hatching is a life and death struggle, but this is just the beginning for this chick." The arrival pushes the endangered condor population to 233 birds. In 1982, it had dwindled to 22.

The Oregon Zoo bolstered the California Condor Recovery

Program's two-decade effort to restore the species when it opened the world's fourth condor breeding operation last fall. But when 12 of the prehistoric-looking birds moved to Oregon in November, keepers doubted they'd produce any eggs the first year.

On March 10, however, Tama-Yawut laid a 4.3-inch-long, gray-green egg, weighing a little more than 10 ounces. Condor eggs lose weight during incubation as liquid inside the shell evaporates; chicks routinely weigh 5 to 8 ounces at hatch; this egg was larger than most.

By the time the chick born Sunday is 6 months old, it will be full-grown, weighing about 20 pounds and standing about 3 feet tall. Its wings will stretch 9 to 10 feet.

Tama and her mate, Mandan,

had already produced 11 chicks and were among the most reliable breeders at the Los Angeles Zoo before they moved to Oregon. But given her age — estimated at 30 or older — keepers didn't know whether she still could breed.

Five days after Tama laid the egg, Burnett snatched it from the nest and placed it in an incubator — a move designed to encourage her to lay a second egg. Sure enough, she did. Using a camera hidden in the nest box, Burnett watched Tama lay a second egg on April 27.

Condors, native to Oregon, were revered by some American Indian tribes, and were subjects of curiosity for explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. The last wild condor sighting in Oregon was in 1904, near Drain.

## Seminoles open hotel, casino

### \$279 million project

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. (AP) — The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino will open Tuesday with all the glamour of a Las Vegas event.

The \$279 million project's opening is expected to draw 1,500 people who will attend a brunch, poolside dinner and a performance by Huey Lewis & The News.

"We could pick this thing up and put it in the middle of the Las Vegas strip or Atlantic City boardwalk and it could compete," said James F. Allen, chief executive of gaming operations for the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

A \$167 million sister Hard Rock casino in Tampa opened in March. The casinos are expected to bring in an estimated

\$1 billion in annual revenue. Existing Seminole operations in Hollywood, Coconut Creek and elsewhere already bring in more than \$300 million in profit each year. For all but Native Americans, who are allowed to offer gaming on their reservations, casinos are illegal in Florida.

"I think it's going to be a tremendous success. There's a huge untapped market for casino gambling in Florida," said Michael K. Evans, chairman of Evans, Carroll & Associates, a Boca Raton consultancy that tracks the casino industry. "The Seminole are filling a huge void."

The hotel in Hollywood has 500 rooms, 4,000 video gaming machines, poker tables and several restaurants. The public area has large ballrooms and a six-acre pool site with a 180-foot

water slide. Guest rooms include marble and granite baths and sweeping balconies overlooking the 100-acre site. The casino does not offer blackjack or table games such as craps or roulette, which are illegal under state law.

Tampa Hard Rock is already exceeding the Seminole's expectations, Allen said. The resort is drawing 20,000 patrons a day on weekends, he said. He predicts the newest resort will draw 12,000 to 18,000 visitors on weekdays and 25,000 to 30,000 on weekends, most from within a three-hour driving distance.

Allen said the tribe plans to market the casino through advertising campaigns on network television, radio, print and billboards, mainly in East Coast locations.

## Fisheries

(Continued from page 3)

Eileen Spino, foreman; Anthony Culp, Earl Charley Sr., Sandra McGill, Robert Strong, Robert Lucei, Valerie Fuiava, Francelia Wheeler, Floyd Frank Sr., Davis Sohapp, Mitchell Whitefoot, Tilden McDonald and Pam Cardenas.

Soliz said the results of the team's work are significant: The team was so good, they finished the contract two weeks early. "We were told that our team clipping was significantly better than other well-experienced groups, and fewer fish died," said Soliz.

The team earned for the Confederated Tribes an opportunity to be one of three groups targeted for an upcoming 15-million fish clipping job at Hood River.

"Our team has earned the respect from the regional office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service," she said. "When we started they had some reservations that we could be reliable and productive to the level needed, due to years past occurrences," said Soliz.

With the project successfully complete, "The community should be very, very proud of the 2004 fish clipping/marketing team, and let them know this when you see them. They worked very hard and did an exceptional job representing the tribal membership."

Soliz has established contact with 33 state operated fish hatcheries, sending letters to

each of them. She was able to talk with 18 state hatchery managers by phone. "There are some possibilities developing," said Soliz, "that would take Warm Springs fish clippers/markers to work around different parts of the state, if supported by tribal officials."

There may be opportunities with the nearby Round Butte hatchery, which would require cooperation among the tribes, the Round Butte hatchery, the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, BPA and others, said Soliz.


Also, she said, there is a hatchery in eastern Oregon that already works with Native Americans from Umatilla and Kamiah, and said they would welcome some Warm Springs tribal members to get involved with their fish hatchery project.

"The big vision of creating jobs through fish marking is to try to bring it to the point of our people being able to work from hatchery to hatchery by season, which can end up being yearly work opportunities — making good money and getting their own contracts," said Soliz. "Fish and Indian people are a natural combination when it comes to job creation."

She said, "Another spin off could be getting our young people interested enough to pursue a college education in fisheries or fish and wildlife biology."

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